

THE JACOBS REPORT

GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
June 3, 2005

Contact: Matt Levin
(517) 373-7888

MIRS POLL:

WARD & EMERSON MOST EFFECTIVE LEGISLATORS

Jacobs Near the Top

In a Michigan Information and Resource Service (MIRS) poll of Lansing insiders, House Majority Floor Leader Chris Ward (R-Brighton) and Senate Minority Leader Bob Emerson (D-Flint) were voted as the most effective members of their individual chambers.

Emerson also was the top vote-getter (37 percent) on the question of which legislative leader is the most dedicated to pursuing good public policy. Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) had the highest percentage of votes (37 percent) on the question of what legislative leader is most dedicated to pursuing partisan gain over public policy.

On the question of most effective lawmakers, the survey ranked legislators on a point system. Participants were asked to give their top three in each category. MIRS gave legislators 5 points for every 1st place effective percentage, 3 points for every 2nd place effective percentage and 1 point for every 3rd place effective percentage. A legislator's score went down 5 points for every 1st place percentage for least effective, down 3 points for every 2nd place least effective percentage and 1 point for every 3rd place least effective percentage.

Emerson led the Senate with 111 points, followed by Senate Majority Floor Leader Bev Hammerstrom (R-Temperance). Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) had 43, Sen. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland) had 35 and Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck) had 33.

Senate Appropriations Chair Shirley Johnson (R-Troy), Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), Sen. Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) all had 20, Sen. Mickey Switalski (D-Roseville) 19 and Senate Minority Floor Leader Mark Schauer (R-Battle Creek) rounded out the Top 10 with 18.

Ward was voted far and away the most effective lawmaker in the House with 163 points, followed by Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) with 80, House Appropriations Chair Scott Hummel (R-DeWitt) with 69 and Rep. Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) with 66. House Minority Leader Dianne Byrum (D-Onondaga) rounded out the Top 5.

The rest of the Top 10 included Rep. David Farhat (R-Muskegon), Rep. Ed Gaffney (R-Grosse Pointe Farms), Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland), Rep. David Palsrok (R-Manistee) and Rep. Steve Tobocman (D-Detroit).

Last month, MIRS sent 2,000 surveys to its subscribers, every legislative office and all gubernatorial staff. The survey garnered 320 responses with a 5.7 percentage point margin of error.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS OKS BOND PROPOSAL

Floor Vote Next Week

Governor Jennifer Granholm's economic development bond proposal picked up steam this week when the Senate Appropriations Committee sent to the full chamber a proposal to create a \$1 billion general obligation bond issue to finance high tech companies.

There's also a chance that the proposal could be larger than the \$1 billion contemplated in SJR C and SB 533, perhaps closer to the \$2 billion program originally proposed by the governor. The committee chair, Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Troy), wanted to bump the limit higher but said Republicans held firm to the \$1 billion proposal to retain a strong hand in negotiating a final agreement.

When the panel was considering an amendment, Senator Johnson finished a comment started by Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), concurring that the \$1 billion proposal was "anemic."

"But it's a foot in the door," she continued.

SB 533 was reported unanimously to the full Senate. SJR C, the Jacobs' Resolution that puts the matter on the ballot, was reported on Republican votes only, as the committee's six Democrats abstained on voting. Democrats withheld their votes after Republicans changed the ballot wording, removing language clarifying that the bond issue would not raise taxes.

Under SB 533, the "Jobs for Michigan" program proposed by the governor was renamed by Republicans as a "Strategic Economic Investment Bond Fund." Unlike the governor's proposal, no funding could be used by the state to buy an equity stake in a company, though it could make loans and grants.

Mr. Prusi tried unsuccessfully to raise the total limit to the \$2 billion proposed by Ms. Granholm, saying it would make Michigan more competitive with competing states that either have or were preparing much larger bond issues to compete for the same economic resources Michigan is seeking.

The committee also adopted an amendment that would prohibit funding going to any company that financially supported the campaign committees for either the passage or the defeat of the proposal.

MDOT CONSTRUCTION MAPS NOW AVAILABLE

At Welcome Centers as of May 31

Produced by MDOT and widely distributed free of charge through Travel Michigan Welcome Centers and MDOT offices, the 2005 map edition includes several updates. For example, Michigan's newest highway - M-6 in Grand Rapids - is shown in its entirety. Another change is

an extended southeast Michigan map that includes all of Ann Arbor, Brighton and Howell. There are fewer city maps - just five - but an additional 14 city maps can be viewed and downloaded for printing on the MDOT Web site. New guidelines require that a city has a population of 100,000 or more in order to be specially featured. Another improvement was enlarging the text for state park information, making it much easier to read. In fact, nearly 200 changes were made to the map since last year.

In 2004, the map size was reduced, shaving just three inches all the way around, and saving taxpayers \$378,000 in printing expenses. Two million maps were produced this year, costing 11 cents per copy.

The 2005 map marks the 86th year since MDOT began producing maps as navigational aids. Starting with this year's map, the department will create a new cover and interior design for each annual edition. In 2005, the theme is MDOT's centennial anniversary, featuring a timeline of historic events and photos that celebrate 100 years of transportation innovation.

To view an online version of the map, get more details, report a suspected error, or to request a copy, go to the MDOT Web site: www.michigan.gov/statemap.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

####